

4-14-2009

# The Hilltop 4-14-2009

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**WEATHER**

 **51**  
**44**  
**Tomorrow:**  
 **50**  
**39**

Established  
**1924**

**Tuesday's Notebook**

**CAMPUS**

FIND OUT WHICH HOWARD STUDENT CO-FOUNDED A FREE CLINIC SET TO BE BASED ON CAMPUS.

**BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY**

FIND OUT ABOUT THE HARSH REALITIES OF INTERNET DISCLOSURE AND HOW THEY ARE AFFECTING FACEBOOK USERS WORLDWIDE.

**METRO**

READ TO SEE WHY D.C. RESIDENTS ARE UPSET AND WHO IS DECIDING TO HELP SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS.

PAGE 2

PAGE 4

PAGE 5

# Week Brings Presidential Fetes, All That Jazz

BY TYRIA STONA  
Contributing Writer

On Monday, the Howard University Jazz Ensemble (HUJE) and Afro Blue hosted "Bright Moments," a Presidential Inaugural Salute for the 16th President of Howard University, Sidney A. Ribeau Ph.D., in the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel.

The event was just one of a week-long celebration of Howard's new president.

The HUJE saluted the president with a concert, playing works from jazz artists Cole Porter, Frank Churchill, Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley.

Also saxophonist Brent Birkhead amazed the audience, playing his solo part in "Who Can I Turn To," by Leslie

Bricusse and Anthony Newley.

"The concert was impressive and touching," said Nita Sismouth, a junior administration of justice major. "It is just a small sample of the talent that attends this university. It is amazing."

Next up was Afro Blue, Howard University's premier vocal jazz ensemble group. The unique, dynamic and multi-cultural group performed pieces with only

one instrument at hand: their voices.

HUJE was founded in 1975 by Ensemble Director Fred Irby III. The group travels internationally to perform and has performed in South America, Europe, Asia and the Caribbean. They are considered one of the most foremost college jazz ensembles in the world, having recorded 35 compositions in an eminent series which began in 1976.

Under the coordination of Connaître Miller, associate professor of music and coordinator of jazz studies, Afro Blue released their first album in 2008.

Senior psychology major Kianna Hawkins said, "This event jump started the inaugural events for the week, but more importantly, it also touches bases with jazz month which is the month of April."

# Obama Queries for Lift on Travel to Cuba, Cuban Government Concurs

BY CHRISTINA L. BURTON  
Business & Technology Editor

President Barack Obama asked his administration Monday to do whatever is necessary to lift the familial travel restrictions to Cuba and loosen the restrictions of information leaving and entering Cuba to and from the rest of the world.

White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs briefed the media Monday about the president's decision, saying that these are steps to "bridge the gap among divided Cuban families and to promote the increased flow of information and humanitarian items to the Cuban people."

Gibbs said, "President Obama is working to fulfill the goals he identified both during his presidential campaign and since taking office."

Federal secretaries of State, Treasury and Commerce were asked by Obama to start by lifting restrictions on family visits in Cuba

and issuing remittances.

Obama also asked the Cuban government to lessen the fees on the remittances given to Cuban families, so that Cuban people receive greater monetary support from their visiting families.

Under Obama's terms, he also aims to authorize more telecommunications by fiber-optic cable, television, radio and satellite between the United States and Cuba, license roaming services for American cellular phone service providers in Cuba and add other humanitarian items to the list of American exports to Cuba.

In a press release, the White House said, "Supporting the Cuban people's desire to freely determine their future and that of their country is in the national interest of the United States."

Creating opportunities, like allowing Cuban families less restricted remittances, are presupposed to give the island's people more access to resources.



Nancy Stona - Chicago Tribune (MCT)  
Press Secretary Robert Gibbs and Daniel Restrepo, senior adviser on Latin America for President Obama, announce changes in U.S. policy towards Cuba.

"It's time to let Cuban Americans see their mothers and fathers, their sisters and brothers," Obama said Monday. "It's time to let Cuban American money make their families less dependent on the Castro regime."

The trade embargo will not

be lifted in this action, Obama said, reiterated by Gibbs who later said that Monday's actions asked were solely to "open up the flow of information, to facilitate that information from getting directly to the Cuban people, and to set up a system whereby we see some results."

# Homeless Show Community 'Street Sense'

BY NIA CHALLENGER  
Contributing Writer

About 80 of D.C.'s homeless and poverty-stricken residents are scattered throughout Northwest D.C. neighborhoods, wearing bright green vests and equipped with an abundance of newspapers.

Known as vendors, these men and women are contracted workers for Street Sense, a newspaper that addresses issues within the community, while simultaneously providing a source of income for the homeless and poor.

For a voluntary donation of \$1, people will receive a copy of Street Sense and can get to know more about a vendor if they choose.

Created in 2003 by volunteers Laura Osuri and Ted Henson, Street Sense began as a small publication, published monthly with a circulation of 5,000 each month.

Now in its sixth year, Street Sense has grown tremendously, becoming a bi-weekly newspaper, printing about 30,000 copies each month.

In October 2004, Street

Sense acquired an office building and achieved non-profit organization status.

Gregory Martin started out as a vendor for Street Sense, and is now the newly-appointed vendor manager for the company.

Martin said he remembers receiving generous donations from people who wanted to help, and even received money for his rent deposit from a pastor, while working at 20th and K Streets.

"Since becoming vendor manager, I've been walking the streets observing vendors," Martin said in his blog on the Street Sense Web site. "Because I've been on both sides of homelessness, I just want to help make this company grow. With my experience, I believe we [donors and vendors] can make it work, and make it better."

Junior business information systems major Nyanda Jackson has never heard of Street Sense, but said she is impressed with the success of the company.

"I am amazed at how the company received the resources to start this newspaper and become an established non-profit in a little

less than a year," Jackson said. "I haven't brought a copy of the newspaper, but as long as it is worthwhile, and the information is relevant, I will try to support the vendors."

Similarly, junior political science major Matthew Robinson is akin to Street Sense generating positive energy for those who are less privileged.

"I think that the idea behind the newspaper is encouraging," Robinson said. "Instead of begging for money on the streets like some homeless and poor people, they are being given an opportunity to make money in order to support themselves."

Everykn Nnam, a second-year, middle-aged vendor from Nigeria who works on 13th and G Streets in downtown D.C. from Monday through Friday, said she loves the focus and exhilaration she receives from working.

"I used to work in a restaurant before I was a vendor," Nnam said. "I was sick and couldn't work anymore, so I didn't have any money. My friend told me about Street Sense, and immediately I was excited, because vending gave me my



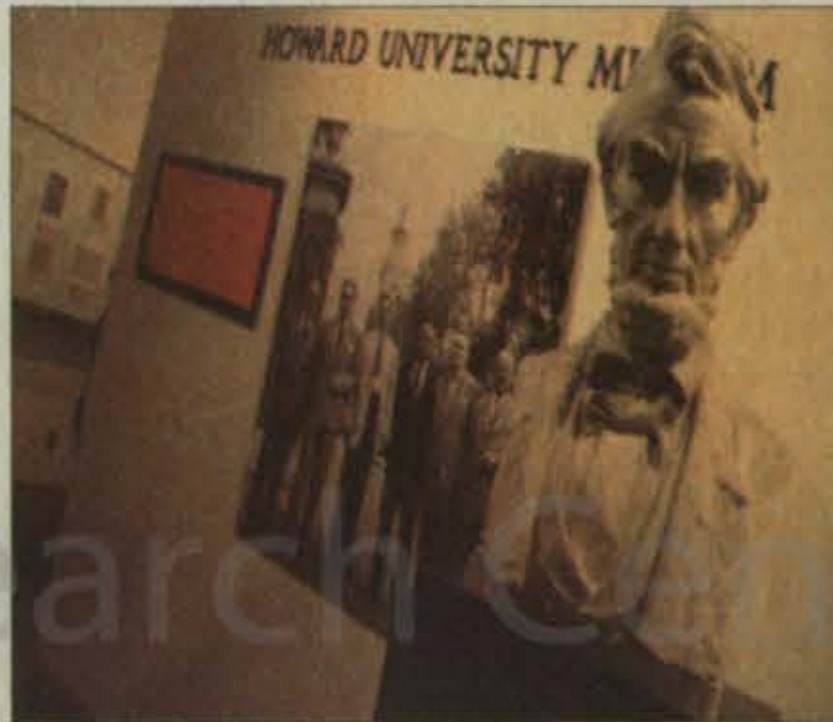
Photo Courtesy of Street Sense  
Vendor manager, Martin Gregory, oversees distribution of Street Sense.

own money."

As for her future goals, Nnam sees better opportunities for herself as a person, as well as within the company.

"I want to stay with this company," she said. "Maybe one day I can help other homeless people, and eventually have a higher position within the company."

Due to the recession, the Street Sense newspaper will not be in print for awhile. However, vendors will recite the news to donors and passersby alike.



Travis White - Photo Editor  
Visit the Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition this week in the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center.

# Howard Gives Lincoln Nods

BY TYRIA STONA  
Contributing Writer

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition opened Monday at the Moorland Spingarn research center. This year marks the 200th birthday of the 16th president, Abraham Lincoln.

To open the event, Howard University's 16th President Sidney A. Ribeau spoke in commemoration of Lincoln's life, efforts and influences to the changes in the Constitution. Then, the red, white and blue ribbon was cut, marking the official opening of the exhibit.

The opening of the Lincoln exhibit is an addition to a conference on "Race and Emancipation in the Age of Lincoln" that the University will be hosting from Thursday to Saturday. The first day marks the 147th anniversary of emancipation in the District of Columbia.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, an organization created by Congress to coordinate celebratory events in recollection of one of the nation's most influential presidents. Howard's exhibits focus on emancipation, evolution and the challenges of slavery.

The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center of Howard University highlights the Lincoln-related resources and also includes documents illustrating his life, as well as sculptures and pictures.

The main source of the items in the exhibit is former Congressman Louis C. Cramton, a supporter of the university who made significant donations to Howard's libraries.

"People may be surprised to know that the exhibit is all exclusive resources of the University," said Thomas C. Battle, director of Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

"Howard University comes directly from the reconstruction initiatives that Abraham Lincoln developed before his assassination," Battle said. "In many ways, Howard University is a living legacy of his vision."

According to senior history major Milea Pickett, "Many are misinformed of what he did during his presidency, and I think it is important to highlight his time in our history, because he played great role in the emancipation transformational period for African Americans."

# Blaze at Howard University Hospital Rattles Patients

BY KAILYN HART  
Contributing Writer

A fire in a curbside vent located in the rear of Howard University Hospital forced patients and physicians to leave out of the lower offices Monday evening.

Around 5 p.m., a security guard reportedly called the fire department.

The alarm never went off, but

smoke and debris — which could be seen up to the windows of a third-floor clinic — caused people to come outside.

"We didn't hear anything," said Erin Yeagley, a nurse practitioner and medical student. "My clinic manager told me to come outside. No one knew anything, we just saw the smoke."

After arriving on the scene, a team of firemen took the vent apart climbed down to the sewer system and extin-

guished the blaze.

Northwest resident and dialysis patient Fannie Maye, 82, who said she was asked to sit in the hallway of the smoky first floor, said she was frustrated by the incident.

"This makes no sense," Maye said.

She said she believes the fire initially began with a cigarette.

"Someone dropped a cigarette

into the vents outside and the leaves must've caught on fire," Maye said.

Lieutenant Spencer Hamm said the leaves in the vents will consistently build up and the only way the hospital can prevent the fire from happening again is by cleaning the vents and gutters daily.

Hamm said the fire could have spread to the hospital if it went unnoticed.

"The fire is potentially hazardous," Hamm said. "Luckily, the area where the fire was, was not surrounded by combustible items except for the dry leaves."

According to Hamm, the fire was small, and a majority of the smoke was caused by an improper use of the fire extinguisher.



# Howard Grad Student Earns Cosby Fellowship With Safety Proposal

BY TAHIAH HAIRSTON  
Staff Writer

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual William H. and Camille O. Hanks Cosby Fellowship student lecture kicked off the Presidential Inauguration of President Sidney Ribeau, Ph.D.

Through this student lecture, the issues of the students on campus were addressed directly, which ties into Ribeau's Student First Campaign launched in January 2009.

"Before President Ribeau's Student First Campaign, our students have always been first with all of the attention and help that our students get from the faculty and staff," said Cudore L. Snell, School of Social Work dean.

Since the 1990-1991 academic school year at Howard University the Cosby Fellowships has been given to students who plan to obtain a Master of social work degree. The award is given to students who prove to be outstanding and innovative in their

specific field.

Second Year School of Social Work graduate student, Saundre Allen is the recipient of the 2009 Cosby Fellowship. From Oakland, California, Allen will be graduating in May with a Master of social work with a focus on mental health.

Members of faculty interview; then nominate each candidate and then the big decision is made. The candidate chosen receives full tuition and a stipend.

Allen stood before her peers, teachers, and mentors to present her PowerPoint stating the problem and suggesting the solution.

Other student leaders, teacher assistants, and graduate assistants were also recognized by Dean Snell receiving certificates for their innovative and hard-work in their field.

Allen chose to research something that affects women on campuses all over the world, especially women at Howard University.

She said that she found in her

research that Howard University is not a campus worried about the safety of their students.

For this academic year Allen has been researching for her presentation "Perception of Safety and Resources Availability among Women Students on Howard University's Campus," which evaluates the safety level at Howard University for women.

"It's part of my research, I am interested in advocating for African American women," she said. "We need to make sure they have healthy growth and development throughout their college career."

Her research consisted of surveys from 38 Howard University female students from the Plaza Towers dormitory. There were 36 women from the West Towers and two from the East Towers. Most of the women survey ranged from ages 20 to 21.

The anonymous surveys consisted of questions for Allen to get to know how women on campus felt

about their safety and where they would confide for help. From her surveys she learned that students mostly confide in their peers.

She also found that students feel safe on campus but think there should be some improvements in campus police and campus escort.

"We need to identify why certain programs work and explore the relationships, we need to find alternative ways to increase safety on campus," Allen said.

For alternative ways to safety she suggested improving resources that Howard already has and making sure that students are informed about what resources they have.

Allen plans to present her findings to other departments on campus such as the campus police, with hopes of making improvements in the safety on campus for women.

# Tom Joyner 'Full Ride Scholarship' Winner Coming to Howard Again

BY ALIESE POLK  
HU News Service

When famous syndicated talk show host and philanthropist Tom Joyner told Blaine Robertson of tiny Reserve, La., that he had won Joyner's "Full Ride Scholarship," the 17-year-old had a choice to make — which historically black college or university would he attend.

He could enroll at Morehouse College, which had graduated such illustrious leaders as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the NAACP's Julian Bond and famous educator Benjamin Mays.

Or he could attend Tuskegee University, a school steeped in the traditions of Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver, or nearby Southern University, or Morgan State or one of dozens of HBCUs.

For the East St. John High School senior with a 3.8 GPA, however, there was only one choice.

"After meeting a few people who came from Howard University and a few people who graduated from other HBCUs, I was like, 'I definitely want to go to Howard,'" Robertson said in a telephone interview from Disney World, where he and other classmates are on vacation.

It is the second consecutive year that the winner decided to attend Howard.

Britney Wilson, last year's winner, is a freshman at Howard University. She impressed the Foundation's



Photo Courtesy of HU News Service

Blaine Robertson chose to use his scholarship to attend Howard where he plans to major in mathematics, with hopes of becoming a math teachers.

scholarship committee with her solid academic record and her knowledge of local, national and international politics.

The scholarship from the Tom Joyner Foundation, which is awarded annually, pays for the recipients full tuition, room and board on campus and books for up to ten semesters.

Robertson, whose hometown of 10,000 people is 36 miles west of New Orleans, is student council presi-

dent, captain of the band and varsity soccer team, and a leader of a peer mentoring group. It may be an overwhelming agenda for some, but Robertson said not for him.

"It's all fun and games," he said.

His position in the band is his proudest achievement, he said. He started as a novice player when he enrolled in the class as an elective, but said he developed a passion for the

instrument and the music.

He credits the band for cultivating the success he has achieved in school and other areas of his life.

"After I opened up to the band, I realized I could open up to the classroom," he said. "And then after that, I just found success all around."

He plans to continue playing the trumpet in Howard's band.

Robertson said he appreciates his family for providing him with the support he needs. He learned that he cannot take for granted the "value of people, friends and family," he said, especially his 19-year-old brother, Bryce, who has been a significant influence in his life.

He plans to major in math when he enters in the fall and earn a degree in education so he can become a math teacher. He wants to pass on that same zeal for learning that he has. For now, he encourages younger children and his peers to persist — no matter what.

"Keep your head up, open your eyes, and take advantage of all your opportunities," he said is his advice.

As his first year of college approaches, Robertson said he is not anxious about leaving a small town and moving to a large city. After all, he said, he chose Howard in part because it was in Washington D.C.

# Free Clinic Coming to Campus

BY SASHA QUINTANA  
Contributing Writer

Raolat Abdulai, director and co-founder of the "New Freedmen's Clinic" presented a detailed plan Monday to open the community oriented clinic in early May.

The after hour's clinic, open from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. one night per week, will provide physical exams, wellness check-ups, preventative care, non-urgent care and diagnostic testing.

Abdulai said the clinic will also offer social services, urgent care and specialty services such as women's health and nutrition.

The project sponsored by the Dean of the College of Medicine, Robert E. Taylor, M.D., Ph.D. will provide medical students and nursing students the opportunity to gain clinical experience while giving surrounding communities access to free quality health care.

The clinic will be supervised under the direction of licensed faculty and college of medicine graduates who have completed their specialized medical training.

They will also be tasked with writing prescriptions for patients while ensuring students obey current health regulations and standards.

Abdulai said the clinic will consist of two teams of medical personnel who provide services for uninsured and under served patients.

The "red team" will provide care for patients from the Howard University Hospital emergency department and the "blue team" will handle patients discharged from the Howard hospital or patients who are scheduled for a follow-up at the "New Freedmen's Clinic" by their physicians.

Students are encouraged to visit the student health center first but are permitted to receive services at the free clinic.

The "New Freedmen's Clinic Initiative" steering committee recently applied for a \$30,000 AAMC Caring for the Community Grant, and Abdulai said the committee is hoping to hear a response in the near future.

"This project is moving full force," Abdulai said. "I've always wanted to do this, I wanted to have a mobile free clinic but I couldn't find funding for that."

Abdulai, a third year medical student became interested in starting a student-run clinic after attending a pre-conference seminar in Portland, Or. with students from George Washington University.

"I got some insight on running a student clinic and I came back and held an interest meeting," Abdulai said of the project that nearly 150 students, faculty and volunteers were eager to become a part of the project.

Abdulai was 1 of 80 women picked out of 3,300 to attend the, "O Magazine, Women Rule! White House Women Leadership" project, which afforded her the opportunity to attend a training conference in New York, she said the program helped her develop the project.

Sylvia Gesheva, finance and fundraising chair of the "New Freedmen's Clinic" steering committee is directing the fundraising efforts for the clinic.

Gesheva, a second year medical student, said her team is working on several fundraisers including a golf tournament, radio-a-thon and a five mile run she hopes all students and organizations will participate in.

"I've always wanted to do something for the community, that's one of the reasons I came to Howard University," Gesheva said. "It's supposed to be community oriented."

The clinic's steering committee is also comprised of undergraduate students within the school of business, social work, nursing and graduate students in the school of dentistry.

Abdulai's goal is to expand the clinic by creating partnerships with other schools and departments, in addition to teaming up with other health organizations to provide greater services to patients with no health coverage.

The clinic will be located in the Howard University Hospital outpatient center, Suite C. For information more information about volunteer opportunities or information regarding the "New Freedmen's Clinic" send e-mail inquiries to nfclinc@gmail.com.

# Zeta Phi Beta, Sigma Gamma Rho Stroll On



Zelena Williams - Staff Photographer

New lines of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. came out on the main Yard on Friday afternoon and night, respectively. Both lines drew a large crowd of onlookers. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. introduced eight new members to the sorority and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. welcomed two new members. Both sororities engaged the crowd with energetic routines and chants.

By Mercia Williams-Murray, Deputy Managing Editor

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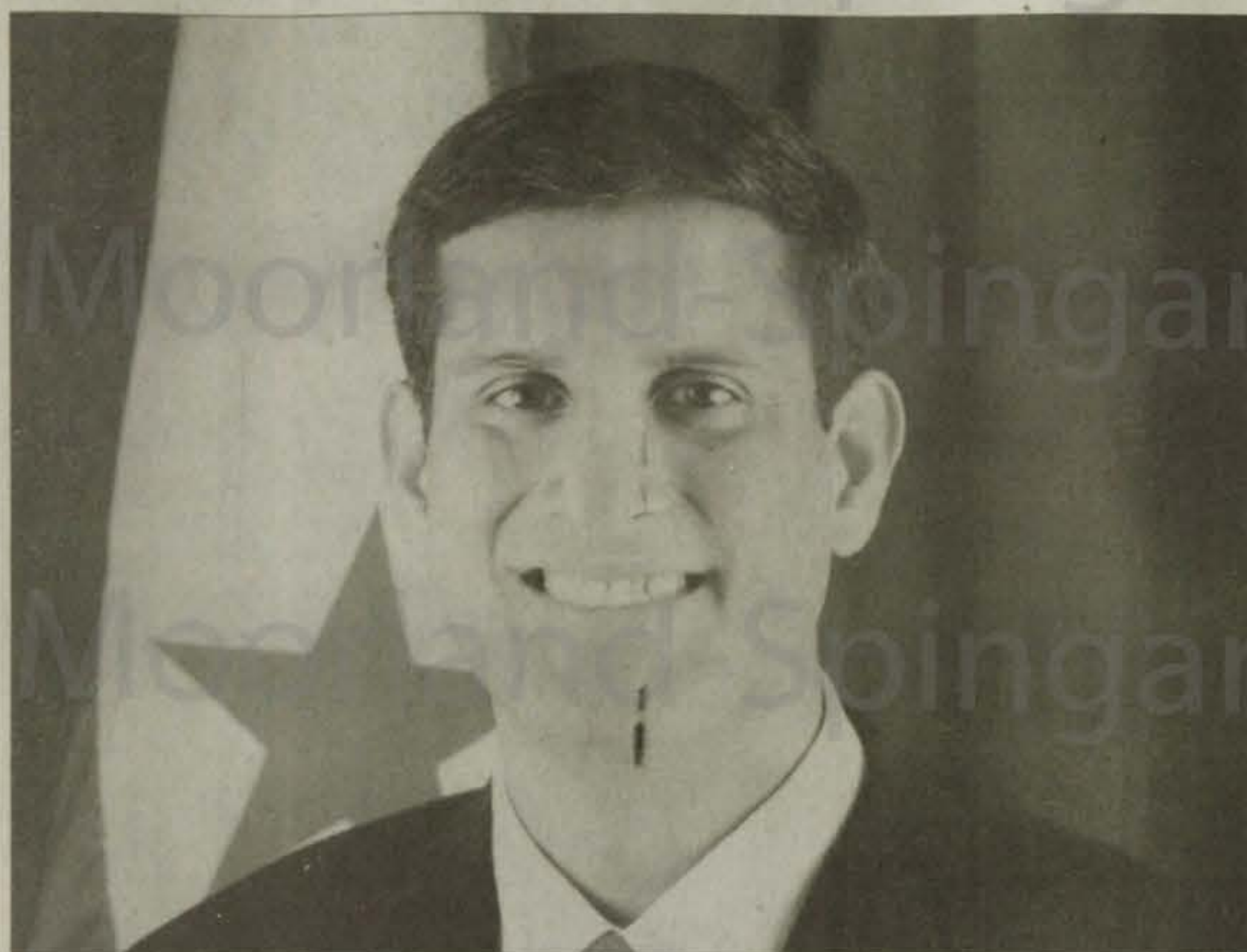
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THE HILLTOP



# Getting To Know President Obama's Tech Head



Vivek Kundra, 34, was appointed to the position of Chief Information Officer in President Obama's administration on March 5.

BY VIRGINIA HALL  
Contributing Writer

Vivek Kundra, the current U.S. Federal Chief Information Officer (CIO), has a heavy responsibility to maintain in his newly appointed, newly-created position.

This position was recently formed under the Obama administration, which seeks to create a "technology czar" in hopes to improve the efficiency of the federal government.

As the CIO, Kundra will direct the policy and strategic planning of federal information technology investments and oversee technology spending.

He is also charged with the encompassing task of ensuring that the government is running as securely, openly and efficiently as possible.

According to President Barack Obama, Kundra has a "depth of experience in the technology arena and a commitment to lowering the cost of government operations to this position."

With a degree in information technology from the University of Maryland, Kundra has an educational background in the field. He has served on Mayor Fenty's cabinet as the chief technology officer for the District of Columbia. In this role, he managed the technology operations and strategies for 86 agencies.

Kundra is also one of the top 25 chief

technology officers in the nation. He won 2008 Information Technology Executive of the Year, for which he was said to have been a pioneer in inspiring transparency, engaging citizens and lowering the cost of government operations.

Although Kundra has several accomplishments, his journey was less than conventional.

Kundra's first language was Swahili. He was born in New Delhi, India, immigrated to Tanzania, and ultimately moved to Gaithersburg, Md. at the age of 11.

At the age of 22, Kundra was caught stealing dress shirts from a JC Penney's store in Maryland. He pleaded guilty to the petty theft charge, and although he was initially fined \$500, was only ordered to pay \$100 and perform 80 hours of community service.

Despite setbacks, in 2007, Kundra organized the largest United States trade delegation to visit India in history.

As a result, a \$99 million investment was given to the state of Virginia.

Some hope Kundra's work will be as innovative and effective as Obama's use of social networks, text messages and other Internet tools during his campaign.

With the right plan and execution, Kundra has the capacity to transform the technological operations of the White House.

## Student Hustle: Three Jobs and Thin Mints

BY CHRISTOPHER CARAWAY  
Contributing Writer

While swiftly exiting the School of Communications, Gabrielle Martinez reaches her car, opens the door to her Kia Spectra, starts the ignition and speeds off to one of her many jobs. Gabrielle is a legal communications major from Annapolis, Md.

Martinez hustles by working three jobs, works 30 hours a week, and is also involved in various activities. She is a field assistant for the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, a scheduling and corresponding intern for the Executive Office of the Mayor, and a hostess for the District Chophouse.

Martinez not only works to have money for her own expenses, but to pay for tuition as well. "I pay for school out of pocket," she said. "I have maybe \$5,000 in loans and grants and my mom helps me. She paid for Howard herself when she was here and is trying to teach me to take care of things on my own and be independent."

Despite the number of jobs, Martinez constantly conserves her money and uses her resources to help cut back on spending.

"My dad is a chef, so I go grocery shopping in his restaurant," Martinez said. "I do laundry at my mom's, and I only go to the club if it is free. I'm from the 'area' so I rotate dinner at my different family members' houses."

David Patton has known and become close friends with Martinez since freshmen year and has always seen her on the move.

"I think Gabrielle is a hard worker," said Patton. "She is paying herself through school and working three jobs. I think anyone that can pull that off and stay in school should be deemed a hard worker."

During her free time, Martinez maintains her hustle by working and getting her other duties



Friends say Gabrielle Martinez is a "renaissance woman" because she balances her hustle with her school work.

done also.

"Although she has a lot of responsibility, she always makes time to have a social life," said Rahkiya Reid, a junior finance major. "Even if it means dragging us along to help her finish her errands."

In addition to her many jobs, Martinez is active in student organizations and holds positions in activities both on and off campus.

"I am the Pre Alumni Relations Chair for the Visionary Leadership Council," she said. "I am also a mentor in the Big Brother Big Sister Program and I also have a Girl Scout troop who I adore. All the programs I participate in are things that other people took time out of their lives to do for me when I was younger, so I try to pay it forward."

To Martinez it may seem easy, but to others it seems like she is consistently busy and pushing herself harder each day.

Quance Floyd has been friends with Martinez for over two years and has witnessed her hustling. "I consider Gabrielle to be busy, but she always has time for her family and friends," Floyd said. "Her priorities are definitely in order, which is why she is a Renaissance Woman. She never ceases to amaze me."

Martinez hustles by working diligently because she wishes to become more responsible and at the same time prove she can do things on her own. "I'm trying to make sure everything I get is on my own merit," Martinez said. "Now sometimes that can make me a little cold because I don't feel like other people understand my struggle or appreciate how easy they have it. People who do things just to say they do it, rarely succeed, well sometimes they do but whether they are worthy of the things they receive is the real story."

For Martinez, hustling by working is about being capable of giving back to those whom have given to her throughout her life. To her, "it's all about reciprocity."

## Facebookers Salty Over New Terms

BY DEVON C. MILLER  
Contributing Writer

A growing number of the 175 million users of the internet social networking site, Facebook, are becoming more displeased with what they call the lack of privacy in the site's rules and policies.

A group of students from MIT were able to download more than 70,000 Facebook profiles from MIT, New York University, the University of Oklahoma and Harvard University as a part of a research project on Facebook privacy, published in December of 2005.

Being able to access people's personal information is a key priority that users of the social network are worried about. While there are some security measures that users would have to get past in order to seek users personal profiles, it seems that Facebook could easily be hacked by anyone who is "tech savvy."

The project also proved that personal information of users and their friends could be compromised by fake users on the program.

Another concern of users was Facebook's right to sell user's data to private companies. According to the Web site's home page "We may share your information with third parties, including responsible companies with which we have a relationship."

As the first generation of Facebook

users seek to enter the job market, many fear that the last four years of late night antics will affect their future employment opportunities.

"Knowing that my potential employer can view my profile with out my permission is a scary thought," said Evan Marshall, 21, of Ohio State University in an online interview.

The new terms of service which Facebook provides makes it hard for user accounts to be permanently deleted. Users fear that once their account is deleted, Facebook would still keep any information the user had entered into the Web site and that their profiles would remain on the Web site's servers.

Other problems that have caused users to question Facebook is the ever-changing updates that Facebook does to the home page.

On an online Facebook poll, only 5 percent of users polled (800,000) agreed with the redesign. Some users have even gone as far as to create user groups in protest of the new design.

"This new look Facebook has is very confusing and is too overwhelming," said Brandon Willis, 23, of Los Angeles. "Just as everyone was getting used to the old setup, Facebook just up and changed it again! They don't even give us time to get accustomed to the older one before they change it again."

## D.C. Gets a Little Sweeter

Georgetown's 'Cupcakery' attracts long lines for the sweet treats

BY JADA F. SMITH  
Nation & World Editor

While Americans are feeling the biting effects of the recession at every corner, there is one street corner in D.C. where people are willing to wait in long lines to get a taste of the sweet desserts baking at Georgetown Cupcake.

On any given Saturday, no matter the temperature, patrons line up around the corner of M St. and Potomac to get a taste of the homemade cupcake recipes concocted by sisters Katherine Kallinis and Sophie LaMontagne.

Kallinis and LaMontagne opened Georgetown Cupcake in February 2008 after leaving careers in fashion and finance. LaMontagne says their grandmother was their inspiration for opening D.C.'s first cupcakery.

"Cupcakes reminded us of baking with our grandmother," LaMontagne said. "We opened Georgetown Cupcake because we always wanted to open a bakery together, ever since we were young. It was a dream we had, and we decided to finally go for it."

The cupcakery offers a menu that varies from day to day, with some recipes that can only be purchased on certain days of the week or with advanced orders. They include fancy flavors like chocolate banana, key lime, lemon berry, chocolate peanut butter

swirl, lava fudge and lemon blossom. LaMontagne says one classic mix never goes out of style:

"Red Velvet is our most popular cupcake," she said.

Chad Jones took his girlfriend to Georgetown Cupcake after picking up on subtle hints that she wanted to try out the popular pastries.

"My girlfriend had heard a lot about it and she really wanted to go," said Jones. He says they were lucky to come at one of their less busy times, avoiding the weekend rush.

Jones ordered the fan favorite, red velvet, but also wanted to try a non-traditional flavor — apple cinnamon.

"It was good, but the best part about it was the icing," said Jones. "I enjoyed the icing a lot; that was the best part of the cupcake."

The sisters believe what makes Georgetown Cupcake stand out amid the competition is the quality of their ingredients.

"We use the highest quality ingredients — Valrhona cocoa, Madagascar Bourbon Vanilla, European-style butter, and fresh citrus and berries. We also bake our cupcakes fresh all day, every day, and this makes the world of difference."

After a year of cupcaking, Kallinis and LaMontagne have sparked quite the competition for specialized bakeries in D.C.

Red Velvet Cupcakery opened

in December 2008 in Chinatown and Hello Cupcake in Dupont Circle opened in August of 2008.

"We don't think it's a trend," said LaMontagne. "Cupcakes have been around forever and most general bakeries sell them. I think when we opened the first 'cupcake only' bakery in D.C., it led to more awareness."

Aaron Gordon, part owner of Red Velvet Cupcakery in Chinatown founded the location after seeing the success of cupcake only bakeries in other major metropolises, like Sprinkles Cupcakes in Los Angeles and Magnolia Bakery in New York City, which was made famous from its guest appearance on the popular HBO series, "Sex and The City."

Gordon says cupcakeries are not a matter of trend, but "if you're good at something, you stick with it."

"If you do one thing and you do it really well, it's the best way instead of trying to do everything under the sun," said Gordon.

Gordon and his sister, Canada, opened Red Velvet because it was a lifelong dream of hers. "It was something my sister always wanted to do," he said. "We went for it. We hired one of the best chefs in the country, David Guas. We have the best product in D.C."

Cupcakeries continue to add a sweet flavor to the District's already unique trends.





Residents of the District are very upset, mainly because "taxation without representation." They finally thought they were getting representation, but DC Vote is working on fixing the expressed problems by the residents of the city.

# Residents Upset With D.C. Voting Rights-Gun Amendment

BY LAUREN WALKER  
Contributing Writer

Cars line the downtown area of the District with license plates reading, "Taxation without representation." Just as many residents thought they would officially have representation for their city, the D.C. Voting Rights bill now includes new gun legislation.

DCVote.org is a 501 (c) (3) organization that advocates for full voting representation in Congress for District of Columbia residents.

According to its Web site, "The DC House Voting Rights Act (H.R.157/

S.160) is bipartisan legislation that would bring congressional voting representation to D.C. residents for the first time ever."

"The gun amendment to the D.C. Voting Rights bill puts people in a predicament. Residents want to vote but to accept the gun amendment in the bill is untenable," said Eugene Kinlow, Public Affairs director and a four-year veteran of DC Vote. "The Bill removes local control in respect [to] writing laws and legislations for firearms."

On Feb. 26, the bill was amended to include changes to current D.C. gun laws. This suggestion came from Sen. John Ensign (R-NV). Upon voting, the bill was approved in a vote of 62-36.

"With Sen. Ensign's offer to amend the bill, anyone and everyone can get a gun. The bill is not fully thought out and was done in a rushed response to pressure from the National Revolvers Association," said Kinlow.

"As a resident of the District, it really bothers me that the government still has not given us our presentation," said Yetunde Osun, a senior political science major.

"It seems like they are trying to do everything in their power to ensure that this bill is not passed, and to suggest that adding an amendment that will place more guns on the streets in the inner city, is not an intelligent move to make."

Osun is not alone in her stance about the gun amendment. The proposed attachment reflects the concept of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states that D.C. residents have the right to keep and bear arms.

Kinlow said that residents' views are quite varied, and it has taken 30 years to get a vote in Senate, and when talking about D.C. voting rights, the question becomes: Are residents willing to exchange?

"Although I do not agree with the amendment to the bill, I do believe that having the right to representation is one thing that the District has fought very hard to achieve," said Lauren D. Holmes,

a first-year graduate student in the School of Education.

"I am originally from Richmond, Va., but I think that after graduation I will remain here in the District and I hope that between now and then we receive some sort of representation."

DC Vote is fighting very hard to get city residents the right to vote without the gun amendment. "Elected officials have no power, and the amendment sends all of the power to Congress. We are working very hard to remove the gun amendment; hopefully, we will [get] this changed by May."

# Mocha Hut Closes for Unknown Reasons, Renamed U St. Cafe

BY GABRIELLE MONROE  
Contributing Writer

Although loved by the community and Howard students, Mocha Hut has officially closed as of March 17, but reasons for the closing are not clear as managers of Mocha Hut have declined contacted.

There were previously two cafés, one on 1301 U St., N.W. and another named Mocha Ground on 4706 14th St., N.W.

Mocha Ground closed first and is now Highlands Café and Grill. But the circumstances were a little different for the original shop, Mocha Hut, that housed the popular open mic night on Thursdays called "Spit Dat!"

Laura Perez, a graduating senior at Howard, recalled the uneasy details of how Mocha Hut closed their doors.

"I remember them mentioning that they were not planning on closing until July," Perez said. "Then they said they were closing in a month, and the next thing I know, the doors are locked

and a sign saying 'Mocha Hut Closed, thanks for all our support'."

But according to frequent visitors such as Perez, Mocha Hut always seemed busy. Perez said she not only attended "Spit Dat!" almost every Thursday, but she also went there simply to read, do homework and relax.

"The really special thing about Mocha Hut was that it was open to everyone; it was like a home away from home," Perez said.

One of the few black owned businesses on U St., Mocha Hut received stars from AOL's Washington City Guide, for, their great breakfast and customer service.

Now white-

owned and renamed U St. Café, the owners have already said there will be no "Spit Dat!" at that location anymore.

And for those who knew Mocha Hut for its open mic night, that alone is what hurts the most.



U St. Cafe will replace Mocha Hut. Mocha Hut was closed for reasons that are unknown.

Judy Lowery - Newport News Daily Press (MCT)

"If I was a crying man, I would have cried," said Hunter Gilleau, a junior national business major.

Gilleau said he has attended open mic at least three times a month, since his freshman year at Howard, and he highly doubts the new place is going to have as much soul.

"It is horrible that they are closed because it was one of the few places with that type of vibe," said Gilleau.

But if the café seemed to have great business and was packed especially on Thursday nights, what was the reason for the sudden close? Because the owners of Mocha Hut are choosing not

to speak on the issue, it is difficult to tell whether or not the closing was due to the economic recession, poor management or sales.

All employees were terminated, many of them Howard students, but even previous employees were difficult to contact.

"I know I've heard that some people who worked there didn't even get their last check," Perez said.

There are still many unanswered questions such as the reason for the closing and why parties involved are remaining silent, but "Spit Dat!" must go on.

Host Drew Anderson has successfully secured a new venue for "Spit Dat!" where singers, artists, poets and musicians can display their talents.

"Spit Dat!" will remain on Thursday nights and will now be held at The Capoeira Spot on U St. Admission for "Spit Dat!" is now \$1.

"Poetry night was one of the best things I did during the week," Gilleau said. "But I haven't been since they moved."

# Maryland Delegates Approve Bill to Ban Texting While Driving

BY ALEXA MURRAY  
Contributing Writer

A driver is traveling down the highway when suddenly a cell phone sounds off or vibrates to signal a new text message from a friend asking where they are.

The driver looks down for a few seconds to reply, before finally returning attention back to the road. But, when they finally look up, they are headed straight into the back of someone's car.

The Maryland House of Delegates recently approved a bill banning all drivers from writing and sending text

messages while driving. According to the Maryland General Assembly, once Gov. Martin O'Malley signs the bill, it will become law. Maryland now joins the District of Columbia and eight other states in passing the law.

Many accidents have recently occurred, similar to this example, in cities

around the United States, bringing about laws banning texting while driving. Drivers not only put their life in danger, but also other people's lives when text messaging.

Pat Groom, a mother of three young adults, said driving while texting is an accident waiting to happen and a life waiting to be taken. She believes that lawmakers should go further and ban the use of all cell phones while driving because police officers cannot easily determine who is texting and who is dialing a phone number.

Tammie Sommons, a senior sociology major, said this new ban is a great idea because of the number of people deaths from car accidents caused by drivers not paying attention.

"I've had several friends die in car accidents, and the more we can do to make driving safer, the better," Sommons said.

Ever since Maryland and D.C. approved the bills to enforce the ban of driving while texting, many people, including Sommons, do not believe it will not be fully enforced.

Jose Ucles, a spokesman for the National Traffic Safety Administration, said police officers have many ways to determine if a person is texting while driving.

He said that if a person is involved in an accident, a police officer may discover a phone on the driver's seat with an incomplete text, or another driver may

have seen them texting.

Ucles also said that "when texting you are not controlling the car, so it can swerve, and the cop will pull you over."

He urges everyone to understand that "the primary function when driving is driving the car and nothing else."

The increased popularity of texting while at the wheel is claiming more lives. Recently this month, a case of driving while texting, or "DWI," was settled. A woman in California was sentenced to six years in prison after causing an accident that led to the death of one person.

According to *The New York Times*, the 49-year-old woman was paying bills on her cell phone and speeding before crashing into a vehicle, killing the woman in front of her.

Brittany Harris, a sophomore print journalism major, said that she does occasionally send and receive text messages while driving. But, she realizes that this is dangerous because it diverts her complete attention.

"I think texting while driving is the equivalent to drinking while driving, and if you get in an accident due to your neglect, deal with the consequences," said Harris.

People from ages 18-27 are the most likely to drive and text at the same time, with 37 percent admitting to driving while texting, according to a Nationwide Survey.



Judy Lowery - Newport News Daily Press (MCT)

Drivers in Maryland, as in the District, are banned from texting while operating a vehicle. When Gov. O'Malley signs the bill, it will be a law.





## TRUE LIFE: Some Things Are Better Left Unknown

BY ALEESA MANN  
Life & Style Editor

Recently, a friend told me about how his relationship with his on-again/off-again girlfriend was thrown off track after she'd logged on to his Facebook account and gone through his messages.

As he told the story, it made me wonder if you had the opportunity to find out everything you ever wanted to know about your significant other, would you take advantage of it?

I did, a few years back when I stumbled upon my then-boyfriend's Facebook password (and by stumble, I mean through extensive handiwork). We had been through so many fights, arguments and lies that I figured it was high-time I got to the bottom of things – and Facebook seemed like the bottom's bottom.

Facebook is the equivalent of a virtual "little black book." It's an online account of everyone you know, for real and for fake. Through Facebook messages, wall posts and photos, you can pretty much document the course and nature of a person's relationship with his or her friends.

Oh yes, I had questions, and it seemed Facebook had answers. I wasn't concerned about what was right or moral; I was a woman scorned, and he was going to pay for it.

Of course when I logged on to his account, I found exactly what I expected. It seemed my ex-felt his Facebook inbox was a perfect place to store all his dirty little secrets. In the 21st Century, the proof is no longer in the pudding, it's on Facebook. So, I printed my "evidence" and pulled it out on one of our dates. In the face of the proof, he had nothing to say, so I did the talking. "We're over."

Looking back, I realize I crossed the line of respecting his privacy, and he crossed the line of respecting the truth. Sure I found out something I wanted to know, but in the process of snooping, I realized you don't need to know everything, especially when it comes to Facebook where anything can mean anything.

Dr. Ayana Watkins-Northern, acting dean of the university Counseling Service, believes there is no doubt that sites like Facebook have changed the dynamics of relationships and communication.

"On one hand, [these sites offer] a wonderful new technological convenience to be able to have immediate access to people and information about people," said Watkins-Northern. "But on the flip side, often there is a breach of boundaries around privacy and intimate details."

For any relationship, Watkins-Northern insists there needs to be a line between privacy and sharing information.

"Boundaries and limits are necessary in every aspect of existence. You have to have limits and boundaries in the process of human development in order to have a clear sense of definition of who you are," she said.

With more than 200 million active users on Facebook and one-third of those users in college – the odds seem to indicate eventually someone is gonna try and talk to your man/girl. It's like Temptation Island times a couple 10 million.

Chibuzo Ibeabuchi, a junior pre-physical therapy major, believes snooping on Facebook is asking for trouble.

"If you're happy with the relationship you have, you wouldn't go searching for stuff," he said.

So, would I do it again? No, or at least I don't think so, or, like, 90 percent of me says I wouldn't, because at the end of the day, some things are better left unknown.

## Routine Checkups No Joke When it Comes to Students' Physical Health

BY OLAJUMOKE OBAYANJU  
Contributing Writer

While they may not know it, students bypass their health everyday when they ignore regular check-ups.

"I only go to the doctor when I need something; last summer I went to the optometrist to get new contacts," said Zaria DeCoteau, a junior physical therapy major.

DeCoteau represents a population of students who are occupied with classes, work, extracurricular activities and everyday collegiate life to properly focus on their health.

"The last time I went to the doctor for a check-up was like before I came to Howard, which was more than two years ago," said DeCoteau.

College students are recommended to go to the doctor every six months to properly keep up with their health; however, DeCoteau's story is not uncommon.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that regular health exams and tests can help find problems before they start. They also can help find problems early, when one's chances for treatment and cures are better.

Licensed practical nurse, Lola Bakrin, said, "It is not rare that college students don't go to the doctor often, and it's not that they don't care, but they just seem to be too busy." The season of physical check-ups begin in late July and go into the new school year according to Bakrin. "I see the most college students right before they have to go back to school, but it seems like it's never voluntary, but rather because it's usually a requirement for school."

Aria Reid, a junior health management major, believes going to the doctor is imperative.

"As a health management major, I think every college student, and specifically women, should regularly visit their doctor, especially since we are in college you never know what's going around."

The most significant check-ups for females are to see the gynecologist as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Tom Ervin (MCT)

It is important for college students to get regular check-ups for health issues and to check for sexually transmitted diseases and infections.

DeCoteau said that she does regularly go to the gynecologist, "...every six months I go, if not three. A girl should probably go if she's been sexually active... and if not then maybe when she's 18."

Doctors advise women to see their gynecologist at least once a year, and more commonly if they partake in sexual activities.

For men, getting a prostate exam is important, but not as important until they begin to age. Prostate exams are used to check on the condition of a prostate and becomes an issue when neglected, possibly resulting in cancer.

In spite of this, the vital reason for physical check-ups for college students is that college students have the greatest risk for receiving sexually transmitted diseases according to Nora Ellen Groce, Ph.D., associate professor at the Yale School of Public Health.

"When it comes to college students' health, the issue is that they are never aware of their sexual health," said Bakrin.

In recent studies conducted by the American College Health Association's and a directory of U.S. colleges, it has shown that college women are among those who are at the greatest risk of acquiring human papillomavirus (HPV) genital infection. The results of studies done in collegiate health centers have also shown that 10 percent to 46 percent of female students around the age of 21 have contracted HPV.

The studies proved that HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection and infects the skin and mucous membranes. The major issue with HPV is that one cannot see it, and most people who have it don't know.

"People are spreading germs and don't even know it," said Jason Woolfork,

senior advertising major. "I regularly get checked up for the benefit of myself, and those around me."

Alize Beal, a sophomore international business major, said that she goes to the doctor three times a year and every time she feels sick. "If you are able to see the doctor you should, because there are many people around the world who can't," she said.

The Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) support that sicknesses can be avoided by bi-yearly check-ups, which help keep students actively aware of their health status.

In addition, the studies conducted by ARHP support that women within the age group of 18 and 25 should receive an annual breast and pelvic exam, Pap smears and routine blood work. Men within the same age range should undergo annual testicular exams.

## Living Without Health Insurance is Costly, Risky Business

BY MELISSA MONTGOMERY  
Contributing Writer

For the first time in his 20 years of living, Rashad Williams, a senior political science major, caught influenza. With no money and no student health insurance, Williams tried to avoid going to the Howard University Hospital. Despite his concerns, as his health began to decline more, he decided to go to the hospital to get the proper treatment. As a result, the hospital billed Williams a staggering \$15,000. With no job and no one to help him pay the bill, he was forced to take out a loan.

Student health insurance is a topic many college students have heard before. For most college students, they are aware that after a certain age, they are no longer on their parents' health insurance plan.

The importance of student health insurance depends on the individual. Providing coverage for emergency room and doctor visits, hospital stays and even medication, can be an important factor of health insurance.

Catherine Saunders, a junior English major, said she thinks student health insurance is vital for college students and should be taken more seriously.

"Many college students do not have health insurance because it is probably not something they think twice about until they get sick," Saunders said. "I am on both of my parents' insurance...in case I get hurt or sick, I know I will be covered."

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 41 million Americans are uninsured, and more than 50 percent of them are between the ages of 19-25.

While some college students choose not to have health insurance, others are confused about the process of receiving health insurance.

Junior public relations major, Colleen Challenger, is a student without health insurance. Even though she considers herself healthy, she would like to someday know that she is insured.

"I feel that if something happens to me, I want that insurance so that I will be able to go to the hospital," Challenger said.

In order for students to be eligible for health insurance, they must be a full-time student, not self dependent, and they must actively attend class for at least 31 days after the plan has been purchased. Students can find more information at the Student Health Center.

Senior public relations major, Alexandria McGaughey, said she has never heard about the student health insurance provided by the university and thinks the

Student Health Center should do a better job informing the students.

"I know a couple of my friends don't have health insurance. They go through D.C. public aid, but if they knew about the student insurance, then that would help some," McGaughey said.

Dr. Lynette Munday, one of the doctors at the Student Health Center, said all Howard University students are provided information about the student health insurance at orientation. Even after orientation, students are still given information about the university's health insurance.

"The Guide to Health Services" booklet was e-mailed to all students three times this year," said Munday.

Kathleen Carlson, insurance broker for Howard University and AIRMI, INC., said that most services the Howard University students will receive at the Student Health Center will be covered under the university's plan and is at no cost. In addition to this, physical examinations and immunizations are at a discounted price.

Howard University is not the only institute of higher learning that provides student health insurance. The University of Maryland also provides health insurance to their students.

Collier Lee Rowe Jr, a sophomore at the University of Maryland College Park is aware of the student health insurance.

"I have some friends who are insured by the school. It is extremely expensive though. Being in school, we are in an environment that makes us more prone to sickness and accidents, so everyone should be insured," Rowe said.

Health insurance companies have made it easier to apply by having online Web sites that can help potential health insurance buyers to compare prices with other companies.

Insurance agencies such as Assurant and Aetna provide step by step instructions for students who are considering applying for health insurance. In addition to providing students with health insurance, the Web sites will also provide students with various quotes.

According to Mirka Shephard, staff assistant for the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), for those students who consider health insurance expensive, Medicaid is another option. Eligibility for Medicaid includes women who are pregnant, disabled persons, or parents of a disabled child and low income persons.

"Medicaid is (mostly) a means-tested eligibility program for specific population groups, and if you can qualify for it because of the level of assets and income and because you are in one of the popula-

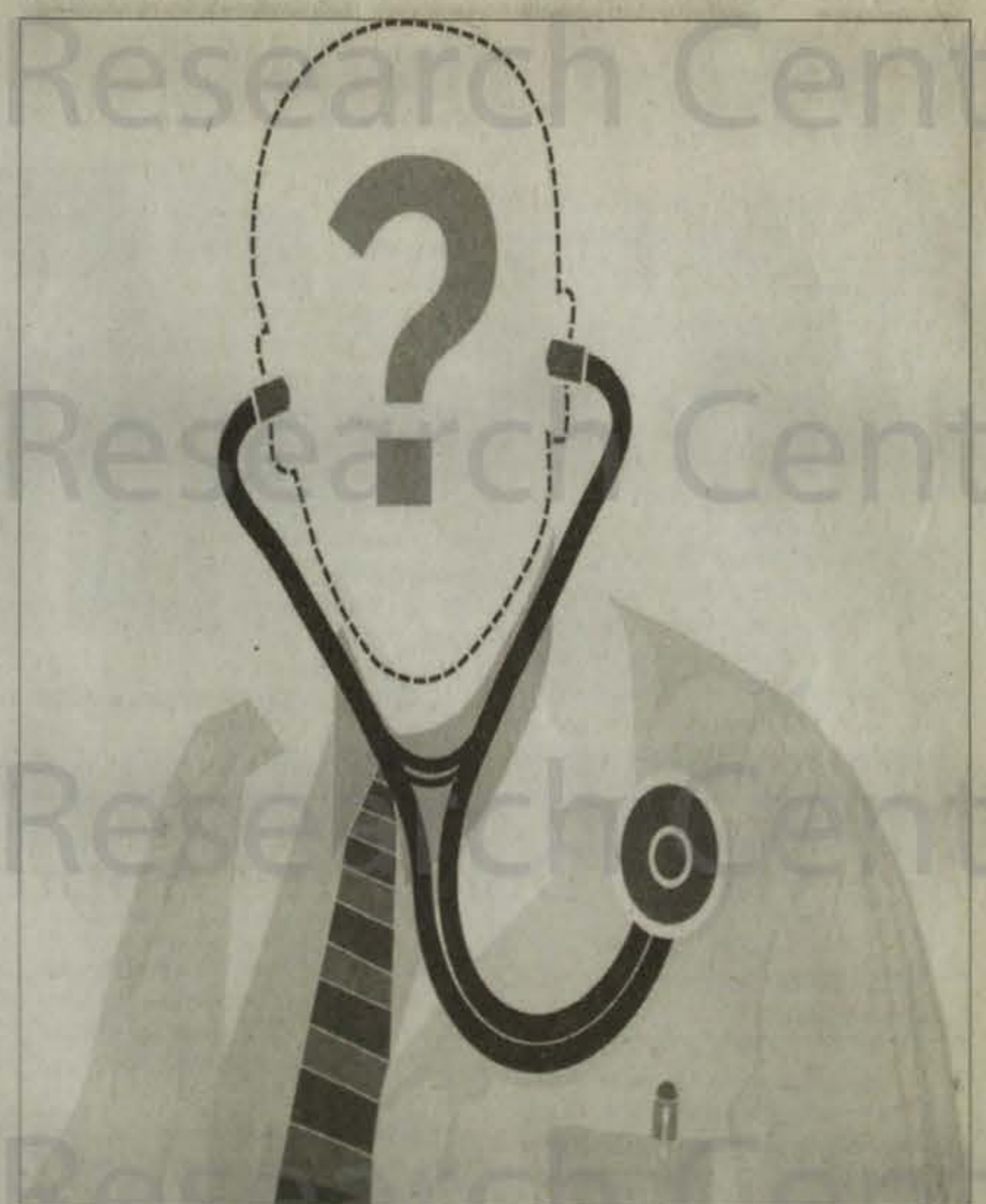


Illustration Courtesy of Jason Seravides - The Charlotte Observer (KRT)

Health insurance keeps students away from the uncertainty of whether or not affordable and quality health care will be in their reach in case of sudden illness or needed check-ups.

tion groups that are covered, you can get Medicaid services," Shephard said.

Whether it be Medicaid or the proper student health insurance, college students will have to find a way to handle their medical expenses.

"Once I was off my mother's insurance, it never crossed my mind that one day I would be so far into debt because of

my one medical bill. You think that it can't happen to you, because you think you are healthy, but no one knows what can happen in the future," Williams said.

For more information about the University's student health insurance, students can go online to:

[www.howard.edu/studenthealth](http://www.howard.edu/studenthealth)





Charles Metzger-Carlson

# Afghanistan Legalizes the Rape of Their Women

When speaking of anything politically, it is difficult to venture beyond national borders. Every nation has its own set of morals, values and ideals that makes it culturally impossible to institute one country's laws in another country.

The disregard of this cultural relativity is what has propelled many critics to label America as being arrogant when it comes to foreign affairs, but there are extreme cases when America and other more socially-developed nations should ignore the skeptics and speak out for what is humane and righteous.

Such is the case in Afghanistan with the recent bill that will deem it lawful for a man to rape his wife, under Sharia family law.

In a nation where women are beaten for showing their face or driving a car, it would only seem right that men should be allowed to have sex with their wives whenever they get ready. But, in an age where the idea of universal human rights is becoming more prevalent,

there are some things that should not be tolerated. Rape is one of those things.

Afghanistan and other parts

## Our View:

*We're not telling Afghanistan how to run its country, but the new bill legalizing marital rape is against all strides toward human rights.*

of the Middle East were just beginning to grant more rights to women -- women have recently gained more access to rights like education and voting in Saudi Arabia.

If those milestones were two steps forward, the passing of this law will be 12 steps backward.

According to the *Huffington Post*, the new law will legalize mar-

ital rape, deny women the rights of inheritance and make the legal marrying age 16.

Of course, the new bill dis-appoints many Americans because it seems as if the country's attempts to bring democracy to the Middle East have been in vain. President Obama recently called the law "abhorrent," and while sexual assault/abuse and women's rights issues continue to be a problem all over the world, most places are not comparable to the Middle East.

Not only is this bill against all principles of women's rights, but it is inhumane and should be offensive to any creature who is breathing.

The thought that women do not have principle control of their own bodies, and the idea that men would be so cruel and animalistic to take something that does not belong to them under the umbrella of marriage is a disgrace to anything remotely resembling democracy and to all human beings, regardless of the country or region.

## Perspective

### Ms. Gaines, Remembered

Thursday, we celebrated the life of a remarkable woman. We packed Rankin Memorial Chapel to honor and remember the life of Ms. Sandra Gaines, our adviser, mentor and friend. She showed us, the John H. Johnson School of Communications, nothing less than love, honesty and support.

Walking towards Rankin Chapel, I felt a little hesitant.

For the entire week, I had been able to avoid the first floor of the School of Communications. I couldn't bear to be around the powerful emotions that everyone experiences, but I knew there was no way I could hide now. I waited outside the door for a minute with my friend to gain emotional control. Finally, I opened the door and walked in.

The entire memorial service was surreal. The instant vibe I received from the guests was shock. Everyone was still in shock. We still could not grasp the fact that Ms.

Gaines is gone.

It seems like I just saw her yesterday in the hallway of the School of Communications. Now, all we have is her memory.

The service was with prayer and scripture. Karen LeCounte sung two spiritual selections. Her first selection, "When We All Get to Heaven," brought warmth and comfort to me. It reminded me that it is okay to be sad that we lost Ms. Gaines, but should rejoice and give thanks that she is in a better place.

Ms. Gaines' niece read a poem she wrote, and Francesca Gaines performed a liturgical dance. Her dance stirred emotions from the audience that many have been trying to hold in. It felt comforting to hear the remarks that Ms. Gaines' closest friends shared. It showed another aspect of her life outside of the School of Communications.

It still hasn't hit me that Ms.

Gaines is gone, and I don't know when it will, but I know that she is in a better place.

Death was once described to me as a shadow with a light at the end. When the sun beams down on an object, there is a small area right before that light that is dark; it just missed the light.

This shaded or shadowed area represents the transition one makes when they die. Although this shadow brings uneasiness, misunderstanding and heartache, we can always expect to see a light at the end. We can assure that Ms. Gaines is secure and happy in her light. She's in heaven looking down on each and everyone of us. And when we all get there, we will understand her peace.

Sincerely,

Brittani Moncrease  
sophomore broadcast journalism major

## Perspective

### So, No One Cares, Right?

So, does anybody even care about James Duncan being missing?

Do you even know who he is? Does Ribeiro?

The news of him being a critically missing person just did not stir anyone's brainwaves, huh? Are we really that self-absorbed at Howard?

And not even the administration, though? I haven't seen not one press release on Howard's Web site since he was declared missing. It's almost like they're saying, "WE DO NOT CARE." Yes, in all caps.

Maybe if he was a soror or a brother under Divine 9 sunshine, folks would pump out posters, cards, Facebook notes and candle-lit vigils. Or, perhaps he should have been a member of the Howard University Student Association, a widely-known student leader on campus, to get some play on someone's lips.

Where's P.E.A.C. at? Or do

they only go hard with the cardboard signs when it involves something that benefits them only?

I was talking to a friend about it as we were walking into Blackburn last week. We were approaching the front doors when we both stopped simultaneously in front of one of the Howard Police Department's flyers and were like, "Wait, did they find that [explicit word] yet?"

I'm not perfect either. The thought of James Duncan slipped my mind for a moment. But my mind and more than 10,000 other Howard students' minds? That's unacceptable. We, as a fortified, educated, supportive black community of soon-to-be leaders and scholars need to come together and find our peer.

You know already Nancy Grace isn't going to cover it. He isn't one of the little Caucasian girls who turned up missing, and he won't immediately grab tele-vised attention. He may not grab

it at all, and if he has and I missed it, he probably won't hold their attention for long. His race and age come into play there.

Plus, James' face doesn't stick out on the main campus. He's not Nick Owen. He's not Kellen Moore. He isn't me either (not saying I'm wildly popular, but I have at least a solid set of six friends who would light a fire under someone's ass if I was missing for more than two days). He's relatively shy, I've found out, and he keeps to himself. But that doesn't mean that students should be slack on their efforts to even care.

I feel like we should do what we would want people to do if we came up missing. I feel like I will do what I'd like for you, as my peer, to do if I disappeared.

More posters. More prayers. More participation. Less patronage.

- Christina L. Burton, Business & Technology Editor

# Daily Sudoku

## Directions:

Each row, each column and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

		4		7			3	
6					8	1		7
	1	3						5
	3	8	7	1				
				5	9	3	2	
5						2	1	
1		7	8					6
	9			6		7		

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Business Manager

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Graphic Design Manager

The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to the editor or perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our Web site at [www.thehilltoponline.com](http://www.thehilltoponline.com).

Any inquiries for advertisements or Hilltopics should be directed to The Hilltop Business Office.

## THE HILLTOP

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Now in its 84th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.



The Hilltop prints every-day. The first 20 words are \$10 and .25 for each additional word.  
All classifieds must be submitted and paid for 5 business days in advance. We accept payment in the form of cashier's checks, money orders, and company checks. **NO CASH**  
Any questions? Contact The Hilltop Business Office at 202 806 4749 or email us at hilltopbusiness@gmail.com.

Are you interested in working on the 2009-2010 Bison Yearbook Staff? Apply today for your chance to work for the Bison Yearbook. Applications are available in the Student Activities Office of Blackburn Center. Applications are due 4/22/2009.


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**2009-2010 Hilltop Applications are available in Student Activities and online!!!!**

**STUDENT PARKING REGISTRATION FOR AY 2009-2010**  
**APRIL 15-17, 2009**

April 15, 2009  
Seniors and Graduate Students.....Apply Only  
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April 16, 2009  
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April 17, 2009  
Open to all students  
(Including second year law students)  
(Not including freshman or first year law students)

Apply Online (BisonWeb)  
9:00 AM until all available spaces have been taken.

Register online: [www.howard.edu/bisonweb](http://www.howard.edu/bisonweb)

The Office of Parking & Shuttle Operations strongly encourages all students to read the rules and regulations form that is signed during vehicle registration.

**Eligibility**  
Students in good standing with no outstanding citations, holds or balances  
Students must be registered for fall 2009 classes by June 30, 2009 to retain parking

Parking and Shuttle Operations (202) 806-2000

## A CALL TO CONTRIBUTE

To Howard University's Self-Study Report!!



## Another Opportunity to Participate in Howard University's Renewal!

Howard University's  
Reaffirmation for Accreditation by  
The Middle States Commission On Higher Education

\*ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS/LUNCH  
Tuesday, April 14, 2009 • 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm  
Blackburn Center Ballroom

*\*Participants should select areas of interests from the Self-Study Report for Roundtable Discussions and Interaction with Self-Study Work Group Chairs*

Review the Self Study Report and post your comments at [www.gs.howard.edu/middle\\_states](http://www.gs.howard.edu/middle_states)  
Come prepared to ask questions  
For more information, contact the Self-Study Office at (202) 238-2495 or [HUSelf-Study@howard.edu](mailto:HUSelf-Study@howard.edu)

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HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
BLACKBURN FORUM  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009  
**6:00-9:00 PM**

**MORE INFO:** (323) 936-3900  
[SINGLETONENTERTAINMENT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SINGLETONENTERTAINMENT@GMAIL.COM)  
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